

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2379

Introduced by Assembly Member Berg

February 23, 2006

An act to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 100340) to Chapter 2 of Division 101 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health laboratory directors.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2379, as introduced, Berg. Public health laboratory directors.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Health Services within the Health and Human Services Agency, and establishes the organization and scope of responsibilities of the department, including maintaining a laboratory and laboratory branches to meet the responsibilities of the department, regulating laboratory services, and licensing certain laboratories.

This bill would require the department to establish the Public Health Director Training Program, through which the department would be required to issue stipends in the form of loans for each of 4 Ph.D. candidates in the appropriate University of California program and for 4 microbiologists in suitable public health postdoctoral programs, and to pay for the establishment of a 2-year postdoctoral public health microbiologist training program for 2 candidates at the department. The bill would provide for the repayment of the loans through service in a local public health laboratory, as specified.

This bill would establish the Public Health Director Training Program Fund to be used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of these loans.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 5 (commencing with Section 100340) is added to Chapter 2 of Division 101 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 5. Laboratory Training Program

100340. For purposes of this article, the terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Division" means the Public Health Microbiology Section of the department.

(b) "UCLA" means the Microbiology Department of the University of California at Los Angeles.

(c) "CAPHLD" means the California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors.

(d) "County public health laboratory director" means the county employee certified under the federal Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 263a) and state regulations with legal and administrative responsibility for functioning of the local public health laboratory, including linking with appropriate private clinical laboratories, appropriate local public health laboratories in the same region, and the state public health laboratory system.

(e) "CCLHO" means the California Conference of Local Health Officers.

(f) "CDC" means the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(g) "CHEAC" means the County Health Executives' Association of California.

100340.1. (a) The department shall establish and administer the Public Health Director Training Program. The department shall commence to accept applications for participation in the program on January 1, 2007.

(b) The department shall implement the program to grant loans in the form of stipends for a period of three years for the payment of tuition as follows:

(1) Loans to each of four candidates for the degree of Ph.D. in an appropriate program of the University of California.

1 (2) Loans to each of four microbiologists in appropriate public
2 health post-doctoral training programs.

3 (c) The department shall establish a two-year postdoctoral
4 public health microbiologist training program for two candidates
5 at the department, and shall provide support for two public health
6 microbiologists in an appropriate postdoctoral training program
7 at UCLA by the payment of applicable administrative fees.

8 (d) The department shall establish a commission that includes
9 representatives of UCLA, CAPHLD, CCLHO, and CHEAC. The
10 commission shall provide advise to the department in the
11 implementation of the program established under this article.

12 100340.2. (a) Loans made pursuant to this article shall be
13 forgiven for service in a local public health laboratory for each
14 year of financial support provided under this article. The
15 department shall adopt procedures applicable to the repayment of
16 loans granted under this article and procedures for processing
17 loans of individuals who are unable to repay a loan within the
18 guidelines.

19 (b) Participants in the program established under this article
20 shall agree to a minimum of one year of service in a local public
21 health laboratory upon satisfactory completion of training,
22 certification, and recommendation by their training supervisors.
23 The department may authorize a leave of absence from that
24 service for reasons of serious illness, pregnancy, and any other
25 natural cause that prohibits a person from providing the service.
26 The department shall, in consultation with the commission,
27 develop guidelines for determining the maximum permissible
28 length of a leave of absence under this section and the process for
29 reinstatement of the service requirement.

30 100340.3. The department shall select and place applicants
31 for participation under this article.

32 100340.4. The department shall adopt guidelines for the
33 selection of applicants under this article, and shall give priority
34 consideration to applicants who are best suited to meet the needs
35 and demands of the position of local public health laboratory
36 director, with consideration with the following:

37 (a) Recommendations for the position by a local public health
38 department.

39 (b) Work experience in an appropriate public health facility.

40 (c) An economically disadvantaged background.

1 (d) With respect to postdoctoral candidates, eligibility as a
2 public health laboratory director on completion of the
3 postdoctoral program.

4 100340.5. Each participant in the program established under
5 this article shall be assigned a participating current public health
6 laboratory director, who shall act as a mentor and advisor to the
7 participant for the initial two years of service as a local public
8 health laboratory director.

9 100340.6. There is hereby established in the State Treasury
10 the Public Health Director Training Program Fund. Moneys in
11 the fund shall be used by the department, upon appropriation by
12 the Legislature, for loans made under this article.

13 100340.7. The department and the commission shall each
14 submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the
15 Legislature. The report shall include all of the following:

16 (a) The number of program participants.

17 (b) The training location and public health laboratory
18 placement locations.

19 (c) The amount of funds expended in the implementation of
20 this article.

21 (d) Information on the overall status of actual and projected
22 vacancies of local public health laboratory director positions.

23 100340.8. The department and the commission shall report to
24 the appropriate committees of the Legislature no later than
25 October 1, 2007, on the experience of the program since the
26 inception of the program, an evaluation of the effectiveness of
27 the program in improving the laboratory response network in
28 California, and recommendations for maintaining or expanding
29 the program.

30 100340.9. The department shall adopt emergency regulations
31 to implement this article. The adoption, amendment, repeal, or
32 readoption of a regulation authorized by this section is deemed to
33 be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace,
34 health and safety, or general welfare, for purposes of Sections
35 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code. The emergency
36 regulations shall be exempt from review by the Office of
37 Administrative Law. The emergency regulations authorized by
38 this section shall be submitted to the Office of Administrative
39 Law for filing with the Secretary of State and publication in the

- 1 California Code of Regulations, and shall remain in effect for no
- 2 more than 180 days.

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